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## Memorial of John Walter Gruner 1890-1981

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John Walter Gruner was born in 1890 in Neurode, a small town in the Sudetenland which is now part of Poland. After finishing his high school education he worked for two years and saved enough money to come to the U. S. in 1912. Three years later he enrolled at the University of New Mexico and received his B.A. in 1917. He continued his studies at the University of Minnesota and earned an M.S. degree in 1919. After that he accepted an assistant professorship at Oregon State University for an academic year in 1919 then returned to Minnesota as an instructor and completed the Ph.D. requirements in 1922. Soon after that he was promoted to assistant (1923) and to associate (1926) professorship and later to full professorship (1944). With the exception of two sabbatical leaves (1926-27 and 1937-38), he taught continuously at the University of Minnesota until his retirement in 1959. He was an excellent and thorough teacher. He set very high standards of performance for himself both in teaching and in research. Only the best students could satisfy his expectations. In spite of that 12 students have completed Master's and 28 have completed Ph.D. programs under his direction. They all became successful members of the scientific or the industrial community. The number of undergraduate students who took his mineralogy and lithology courses (or physics and geography courses during the war) number over a thousand.

Dr. Gruner, or J.W. to his friends, was an equally productive research scientist. He published a large number of scientific papers of which many became classics in mineralogy and crystallography. After returning from his sabbatical year at the University of Leipzig where he worked with Friedrich Rinne and Ernst Schiebold, he became one of the first professors of mineralogy in the US to teach X-ray diffraction (1927). He and his students determined a number of crystal structures, including several difficult layer silicate structures. All of his early crystal structure models have since been refined and all



were found to be basically correct. For decades he was the leading authority in the mineralogy and geology of the iron formations of Minnesota and of the radioactive mineral deposits of Colorado. He also discovered and named two new minerals: groutite, in honor of his former teacher and colleague, F. F. Grout, and minnesotaite, in testimony of his loyalty to the state of Minnesota.

The value of his contributions to mineralogy and geology were recognized by his colleagues, who elected him as their president of the Crystallograph-



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# BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

of

JOHN W. GRUNER

*1:24:00-1:27:00*  
GSA Memoir 135

B.A., University of New Mexico	1917
M.S., University of Minnesota	1919
Ph.D., University of Minnesota	1922
Assistant Professor, Oregon State University	1919-1920
Instructor, University of Minnesota	1920
Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota	1923
Associate Professor, University of Minnesota	1926
Professor, University of Minnesota	1944
Director, Rock Analysis Laboratory, University of Minnesota	1947-1949
Sabbatical leave, University of Leipzig, Germany	1926-1927
Sabbatical leave, consultant to H.A. Brassert Co., Germany	1936-1937
Member of the Geological Survey of Minnesota	1920-1948
Fellow of Geological Society of America	1923
Fellow of Mineralogical Society of America	1927
Fellow of Society of Economic Geologists	1928
Member of Advisory Board, American Gem Society	1939
Member of American Crystallographic Association	1945
Vice-president, Mineralogical Society of America	1943
Membership on committees of National Research Council	1940-1944
President of Crystallographic Society of America	1947-1948
President of Mineralogical Society of America	1948-1949
Vice-president of Geological Society of America	1949-1950
Committee Chairman of Mineralogical Society of America Award	1951



Committee Chairman of Roebling Medal Award of Mineralogical Society of America	1953
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Nominating Committee of Mineralogical Society of America	1954
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President of Sigma Xi Honorary Scientific Society (local chapter)	1953
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Member of Fulbright Fellowship Awards Committee	1954
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Recipient of Roebling Medal of Mineralogical Society of America	1962
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Honorary Doctor of Science, University of New Mexico	1963
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